AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of Claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for exchanging a first sub-hierarchy of at least two sub-hierarchies of a hierarchical filesystem (HFS) with a second sub-hierarchy of the at least two sub-hierarchies, the HFS being accessible by at least one processor and having one root directory that is a parentless directory, the method comprising the steps of:

providing for the first sub-hierarchy to include a first root directory located in a first location occupied by the root directory of the HFS and a first plurality of files configured to branch ~~therefrom~~ from the first root directory;

providing for the second sub-hierarchy to include a second root directory located in a second location of the HFS that is not occupied by the root directory of the HFS and a second plurality of files configured to branch ~~therefrom~~ from the second root directory; and

providing for relocation of the second root directory from the second location to the first location which is occupied by the root directory of the HFS without copying content of the first or second plurality of files.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing for configuration of the second plurality of files to branch from the second root directory including while the second root directory is located in the first location.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing for relocation of the first root directory from the first location which is occupied by the root directory of the HFS to the second location.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of providing for configuration of the first plurality of files to branch from the first root directory including while the first root directory is located in the second location.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first and second sub-hierarchies are mutually exclusive.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the second location is not occupied by any element of the first sub-hierarchy prior to the relocation.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing for relocation step is performed during one of startup of an operating system executing on the at least one processor, and during execution of the operating system.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing for storage of first and second operating systems executable on the at least one processor in the respective first and second sub-hierarchies.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing for a replacement of the first sub-hierarchy with the second sub-hierarchy.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing for an exchange of the first and second sub-hierarchies.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of preventing unauthorized access by an operating system executed on the at least one processor to the HFS other than to the sub-hierarchy of the at least two sub-hierarchies having its root directory located in the first location before and after an exchange.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing for configuration of the second plurality of files to branch from the first root directory and the first plurality of files to branch from the second root directory.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing for relocation step further includes the steps of:

providing for reconfiguration of one or more pointers included in the HFS pointing between the second root directory and a parent directory of the second root directory for reconfiguring the second root directory to be a parentless directory; and

providing for replacement of content and associated data of the second root directory with content and associated data of the first root directory.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the HFS resides upon a storage medium selected from the group consisting of physical and virtual storage mediums.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing within the HFS a container directory branching from the root directory of the HFS and not included in the at least two sub-hierarchies, from which branches each sub-hierarchy of the at least two sub-hierarchies other than the sub-hierarchy of the at least two sub-hierarchies having its root directory located in the first location.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of providing for another subsequent exchange of the first and second sub-hierarchies with the effect of returning the first and second sub-hierarchies to their original locations.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing at least one file associated exclusively with the root directory of the HFS and with one of the first and second root directories when located in the first location.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the content of the first sub-hierarchy includes an upgrade of content of the second sub-hierarchy.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the exchange is reversible.

21. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first and second sub-hierarchies provide different user environments.

22. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein content of the second sub-hierarchy is a copy of content of the first sub-hierarchy.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:

at least one processor;

a hierarchical filesystem (HFS) accessible by the at least one processor, the HFS having at least two sub-hierarchies including first and second sub-hierarchies and only one parentless root directory , wherein the first sub-hierarchy includes a first root directory located in a first location occupied by the root directory of the HFS and a plurality of files configured to branch ~~therefrom~~ from the first root directory,and the s econd sub-hierarchy includes a second root directory located in a second location of the HFS different from the first location, and a second plurality of files configured to branch ~~therefrom~~ from the second root directory; and

a set of programmable instructions executable on the at least one processor for providing for exchanging the first sub-hierarchy with the second sub-hierarchy comprising:

receiving a request to exchange the first sub-hierarchy with the second sub-hierarchy; and

providing for relocating the second root directory from the second location into the first location which is occupied by the root directory of the HFS without copying content of the first or second plurality of files, and configuring the second plurality of files to branch therefrom responsive to the receipt of the request, the providing for relocating including providing for reconfiguring at least one pointer included in the HFS.

24. (Original) The computer system according to claim 23, wherein the second location is not occupied by the first sub-hierarchy.

25. (Previously presented) The computer system according to claim 23, wherein the set of programmable instructions is executable on the at least one processor for relocating the first root directory into the second location and configuring the first plurality of files to branch therefrom.

26. (Original) The computer system according to claim 23, wherein the first and second sub-hierarchies are mutually exclusive.

27. (Original) The computer system according to claim 23, wherein the HFS resides upon a storage medium selected from the group consisting of physical and virtual storage mediums.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A computer system for exchanging a first sub-hierarchy of at least two sub-hierarchies of a hierarchical filesystem (HFS) with a second sub-hierarchy of the at least two sub-hierarchies, the HFS being accessible by at least one processor and having one root directory that is a parentless directory, the system comprising:

means for providing for the first sub-hierarchy to include a first root directory located in a first location occupied by the root directory of the HFS and a first plurality of files configured to branch ~~therefrom~~ from the first root directory;

means for providing for the second sub-hierarchy to include a second root directory located in a second location of the HFS that is not occupied by the root directory of the HFS and a second plurality of files configured to branch ~~therefrom~~ from the second root directory; and

means for providing for relocation of the second root directory from the second location to the first location which is occupied by the root directory of the HFS without copying content of the first or second plurality of files.

30. (Previously presented) The computer system according to claim 29, further comprising means for providing for configuration of the second plurality of files to branch from the second root directory including while the second root directory is located in the first location.

31. (Previously presented) The computer system according to claim 29, further comprising means for providing for relocation of the first root directory from the first location which is occupied by the root directory of the HFS to the second location.

32. (Previously presented) The computer system according to claim 31, further comprising means for providing for configuration of the first plurality of files to branch from the first root directory including while the first root directory is located in the second location.

33. (Previously presented) The computer system according to claim 29, wherein the first and second sub-hierarchies are mutually exclusive.

34. (Previously presented) The computer system according to claim 29, wherein the second location is not occupied by the first sub-hierarchy.

35. (Previously presented) The computer system according to claim 29, wherein the means for providing for relocation performs the relocation during one of startup of an operating system executing on the at least one processor, and during execution of the operating system.

36. (Previously presented) The computer system according to claim 29, further comprising means for providing storage of first and second operating systems executable on the at least one processor in the respective first and second sub-hierarchies.

37. (Previously presented) The computer system according to claim 29, further comprising means for providing for a replacement of the first sub-hierarchy with the second sub-hierarchy.

38. (Previously presented) The computer system according to claim 29, further comprising means for providing for an exchange of the first and second sub-hierarchies.

39. (Previously presented) The computer system according to claim 29, further comprising means for preventing unauthorized access by an operating system executed on the at least one processor to the HFS other than to the sub-hierarchy of the at least two sub-hierarchies having its root directory located in the first location before and after an exchange.

40. (Previously presented) The computer system according to claim 29, further comprising means for providing for configuration of the second plurality of files to branch from the first root directory and the first plurality of files to branch from the second root directory.

41. (Previously presented) The computer system according to claim 29, wherein the means for providing for relocation further includes:

means for providing for reconfiguration of one or more pointers included in the HFS pointing between the second root directory and a parent directory of the second root directory for reconfiguring the second root directory to be a parentless directory; and

means for providing for replacement of content and associated data of the second root directory with content and associated data of the first root directory.

42. (Previously presented) The computer system according to claim 29, wherein the HFS resides upon a storage medium selected from the group consisting of physical and virtual storage mediums.

43. (Previously presented) The computer system according to claim 29, further comprising means for providing within the HFS a container directory branching from the root directory of the HFS and not included in the at least two sub-hierarchies, from which branches each sub-hierarchy of the at least two sub-hierarchies other than the sub-hierarchy of the at least two sub-hierarchies having its root directory located in the first location.

44. (Previously presented) The computer system according to claim 38, further comprising means for providing for another subsequent exchange of the first and second sub-hierarchies with the effect of returning the first and second sub-hierarchies to their original locations.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Previously presented) The computer system according to claim 29, further comprising means for providing at least one file associated exclusively with the root directory of the HFS and with one of the first and second root directories when located in the first location which is occupied by the root directory of the HFS.

47. (Previously presented) The computer system according to claim 29, wherein content of the first sub-hierarchy includes an upgrade of content of the second sub-hierarchy.

48. (Previously presented) The computer system according to claim 38, wherein the exchange is reversible.

49. (Original) The computer system according to claim 29, wherein the first and second sub-hierarchies provide different user environments.

50. (Previously presented) The computer system according to claim 29, wherein content of the second sub-hierarchy is a copy of content of the first sub-hierarchy.

51. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a set of programmable instructions configured for execution by at least one processor for exchanging a first sub-hierarchy of at least two sub-hierarchies of a hierarchical filesystem (HFS) with a second sub-hierarchy of the at least two sub-hierarchies, the HFS being accessible by the at least one processor and having one root directory that is a parentless directory, the programmable instructions comprising:

means for providing for the first sub-hierarchy to include a first root directory located in a first location occupied by the root directory of the HFS and a first plurality of files configured to branch ~~therefrom~~ from the first root directory;

means for providing for the second sub-hierarchy to include a second root directory located in a second location of the HFS that is not occupied by the root directory of the HFS and a second plurality of files configured to branch ~~therefrom~~ from the second root directory;

means for providing for configuration of the second plurality of files to branch from the first location; and

means for providing for relocation of the second root directory from the second location to the first location which is occupied by the root directory of the HFS without copying content of the first or second plurality of files.

52. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium in accordance with claim 51, further comprising:

means for providing for configuration of the first plurality of files to branch from the second location; and

means for relocation of the first root directory from the first location which is occupied by the root directory of the HFS to the second location.

53. (Currently Amended) A computer data signal embodied in a transmission medium for execution by at least one processor for exchanging a first sub-hierarchy of at least two sub-hierarchies of a hierarchical filesystem (HFS) with a second sub-hierarchy of the at least two sub-hierarchies, the HFS being accessible by the at least one processor and having one root directory that is a parentless directory, the data signal comprising:

a code segment including instructions for providing for the first sub-hierarchy to include a first root directory located in a first location occupied by the root directory of the HFS and a first plurality of files configured to branch ~~therefrom~~ from the first root directory;

a code segment including instructions for providing for the second sub-hierarchy to include a second root directory located in a second location of the HFS that is not occupied by the root directory of the HFS and a second plurality of files configured to branch ~~therefrom~~ from the second root directory;

a code segment including instructions for configuring the second plurality of files to branch from the first location; and

a code segment including instructions for relocating the second root directory from the second location to the first location which is occupied by the root directory of the HFS without copying content of the first or second plurality of files.

54. (Previously presented) The data signal according to claim 53, further comprising:

a code segment including instructions for configuring the first plurality of files to branch from the second location; and

a code segment including instructions for relocating the first root directory from the first location which is occupied by the root directory of the HFS to the second location.

55. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the root directory of the HFS includes features associated exclusively with the root directory of the HFS, and wherein the providing for relocation of the second root directory further comprises providing the second root directory with the at least one feature associated exclusively with the root

directory of the HFS and disassociating the first root directory with the at least one feature associated exclusively with the root directory of the HFS.

56. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first and second sub-hierarchies are overlapping.

57. (Currently Amended) A method for exchanging a first sub-hierarchy of at least two sub-hierarchies of a hierarchical filesystem (HFS) with a second sub-hierarchy of the at least two sub-hierarchies, the HFS being accessible by at least one processor and having one root directory that is a parentless directory, the method comprising the steps of:

providing for the first sub-hierarchy to include a first root directory located in a first location occupied by the root directory of the HFS and a first plurality of files configured to branch ~~therefrom~~ from the first root directory;

providing for the second sub-hierarchy to include a second root directory located in a second location of the HFS that is not occupied by the root directory of the HFS and a second plurality of files configured to branch ~~therefrom~~ from the second root directory; and

providing for exchanging the first sub-hierarchy with the second sub-hierarchy comprising:

receiving a request to exchange the first sub-hierarchy with the second sub-hierarchy; and

providing for relocation of the second root directory from the second location to the first location which is occupied by the root directory of the HFS responsive to the receipt of

the request, the providing for relocation performed without copying content of the first or second plurality of files including providing for reconfiguring at least one pointer included in the HFS.